

Pacific Coast Cities Little Hurt by Slump

Seattle Experienced First Depression When the Big War-Time Shipyards Suspended After Armistice

San Francisco Is Hopeful

Expansion Programs Postponed in Some Instances; Unemployment Gaining

The Pacific Coast is not feeling the full force of the present depression, especially as it affects labor and unemployment, according to reviews of the situation compiled by the chambers of commerce in San Francisco and in Seattle.

ment period was reached and passed earlier with the curtailment of work on government contracts in the shipyards there. This was the first trade to feel the recession from war activity, and the resulting depression was not felt so keenly for the reason that other industries were unaffected.

San Francisco reports some increase in unemployment, with labor returning from the farms, but the general business situation might be worse if

**Seattle Feels Effect
Of Slump in Lumber**

Although Seattle feels that its business position is somewhat stronger than many Eastern and Middle Western cities, for the reason that it passed through its readjustment period several months ago, it has felt the recent slump in the lumber industry. Outside of this line Seattle's industry is well diversified, and the change has been well absorbed, it is felt.

The first contraction of business came with the cessation of work on

war contracts in the new shipyards, and this released labor in sufficient quantities to ease the situation. Consequently the depression of the last few months has not been so keenly felt. Although industry is quiet in comparison with war days, it has advanced considerably from pre-war times.

No industrial expansions are under way at present, but plans are under consideration and only await settled conditions. It is a general feeling

are not springing up at the customary war rate, but several of a substantial nature have recently located in the city. It is probable that 95 per cent of the manufacturing plants are operating on a normal basis, although lumber mills are on part time to some extent. Wages, except for common labor, are little changed, but there is greater unemployment, especially among unskilled and semi-skilled, and building trades have recently been unsteady.

in the retail stores sales in most lines are running above 10 per cent behind last year. The situation as to goods profits is spotted, some lines showing losses, inventories are probably lighter than a year ago. Luxuries are continuing in demand to a great extent.

Bank clearings show the city's industrial growth. For October this year they were \$176,937,518 and for the same month last year \$178,507,453. For the corresponding months of 1932 and 1933

Unemployment Gains In San Francisco

Some expansion programs have been temporarily postponed because of unsettled conditions, but it is believed that none of these has been abandoned. Others have been completed and new business concerns continue to locate in the city. Several new buildings have been added to the industrial section.

Manufacturing plants are operating about at normal, so far as can be learned, but wholesale business is

and little movement of stocks is taking place. Retail business has held up well except within the last two or three weeks.

Bank clearings in September this year were \$712,000,000, against \$217,381,517 in the same month of 1913.

Slackening in Business Reported in Memphis

Special privileges are

A general slackening in business, but no undue pessimism, is reported by business men in Memphis and the surrounding territory. The slump in cotton and hardwoods has affected local industries to some extent. Some of the local hardwood mills are running on half time, while a few have closed temporarily. A revival of business is expected soon after the first of the year.

Expansion programs, particularly those pertaining to foreign trade,

According to the local Chamber of Commerce the territory around Memphis already has \$200,000,000 worth of bonds authorized for good roads. Shortage of cars and materials is hindering this work. The Chamber of Commerce reports 122 new industries that have arranged to locate in Memphis since January 1, 1920, compared to 133 for the calendar year of 1919.

No wage cuts are reported and little

unemployment is noticed. Bank debits to individual accounts for the week ended October 27, 1920, show a decline, compared to the debits for the same period last year. The figures for the week this year are \$31,628,009, and for last year, \$40,280,000. The decrease is attributed to the fact that the cotton crop this year is about three weeks later than last.

Proves Profitable for One
Selling the market short on some merchandise has been a profitable experience for a few retailers, bold enough to take the chance. A story, well founded, is going the rounds relating the experience in short selling indulged in by a prominent Chicago mail order house. The company had a certain amount of flannelette night gowns in stock that cost \$1.39 apiece and were marked to retail at \$1.89.

A new retail price of \$1.39, which did not cover cost, plus the selling and other overhead expense, was placed on the merchandise and "flyers" sent to the trade. Response was instantaneous and enormous. Orders for more than twice the amount of stock in hand were received. The wholesale market was canvassed for additional merchandise which had popped in price to about \$8 or \$9 a dozen, thus leaving the mail order house with a hand-